

Filed for intro on 01/08/2002

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 486
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to urge the prominent display in all state buildings of the phrases "God Bless America" or "In God We Trust."

WHEREAS, From the early beginnings of this country, the founders associated their cause in building a new nation with faith in the Supreme Being, and petitioned Divine Providence for guidance and protection; and

WHEREAS, In every crisis that has threatened the United States since the beginning of our independence, citizens have rallied together in unity against all dangers, whether foreign or domestic, and have reached out to each other across the boundaries of various faiths and systems of belief to call upon God's aid in combating the forces that would bring our nation down; and

WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, the forces of international terrorism struck at the heart of our commercial and political centers in New York City and Washington, D.C., using commercial airliners carrying innocent civilians to bring down the twin towers of the World Trade

SJR0486

00975956

Center and to severely damage the Pentagon, at the cost of thousands of lives of American citizens as well as the lives of citizens of several other nations; and

WHEREAS, Out of the shock and horror engendered by those terrible and senseless acts, and inspired by the heroism of hundreds of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel and other first responders, the diverse elements of our population came together in grief and resolve in a spontaneous demonstration of patriotism and faith to petition Divine guidance in the struggle to prevail over the forces of evil in our world; and

WHEREAS, Over succeeding weeks, hundreds of thousands of flags and other evidences of patriotic fervor appeared on homes, buildings, automobiles and lapels; in communities across America, special services were held in churches, synagogues, mosques and temples, and ecumenical public prayer services were held as expressions of unity and hope for God's protection in the worldwide struggle against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the power and fervor of this spontaneous outpouring of expressions of faith, it is incumbent upon this General Assembly to reflect these sentiments in the state buildings and other public edifices in Tennessee in keeping with the principles of representative democracy and to promote our national unity under Divine guidance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we strongly urge that suitable placards be displayed in a prominent place in every state building, such placards to bear the phrase "God Bless America" or "In God We Trust."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution sent to the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, to each of the Constitutional Officers, and to the Board of Regents for State Universities and Community Colleges and the Board of Trustees for the University of Tennessee with this final clause omitted from such copies.

